

Preliminary Amendment filed February 16, 2007

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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

in order to obtain optically active substituted ~~alpha-indanyl-amide~~ alpha-amino indane derivatives of formula (I).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

The term functional group means an halogen, -OH, -OR<sub>3</sub>, -CN, -COOR<sub>3</sub>, -COR<sub>3</sub>, -CONR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, -OCOR<sub>3</sub>, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHR<sub>3</sub>, -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, -NHCOR<sub>3</sub> and -N(COR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -SR<sub>3</sub>, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are independently a lower alkyl, an alkylaryl or an aryl group as defined previously. The term halogen means an atom like ~~chlore, bromo, fluor or iode~~ chlorine, bromine, flourine or iodine.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

S is a dialkyl ammonium, preferably a ~~dimethy~~ dimethyl ammonium.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The solvent used during the ~~assymetric~~ asymmetric hydrogenation is selected in the group comprising ether such as tetrahydrofuran (THF), tetrahydropyran and diethyl ether, aromatic hydrocarbon such as benzene and toluene, halogenated hydrocarbon such as dichloromethane, alcohol such as methanol, ethanol or isopropanol. According to a preferred embodiment of the invention the solvent used is an alcohol, more preferably methanol.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The step of the hydrolysis reaction of the amide derivative of formula (II) obtained at the end of the asymmetric hydrogenation is performed in presence of an organic acid or a mineral acid such as hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid or hydrobromic acid, preferably ~~sulfuric~~ sulfuric acid, according to methods described in the literature to obtain alpha-aminoindan derivatives of formula (I) in an appropriate solvent, preferably an alcohol and more preferably methanol.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The heterogeneous catalyst used during the ~~hydrogenolyses~~hydrogenolysis-acylation reaction of the derivative of formula (IV) is selected in the group comprising PtO<sub>2</sub>, Pt/C, Pd/C, Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C, Ir/C, Rh/C and Raney Ni.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The effective amount of the heterogeneous catalyst used during the ~~hydrogenolyses~~hydrogenolysis-acylation is in an amount from 0.1% to 30% for 1 mole of the N-(O-acylimino)-indane derivative of formula (IV).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

The reaction of ~~hydrogenolyses~~hydrogenolysis-acylation is performed with a hydrogen pressure range from 0.5 to 20 bars under a temperature range from -20 to 150°C, preferably 20

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to 120°C, for a period of time in the range from 10 min to three days, preferably from 1 to 24 hours.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The acylation reaction of the derivative of formula (V) and the ~~hydrogenolyse~~hydrogenolysis-acylation reaction of the derivative of formula (IV) are respectively performed in an aprotic non-basic solvent selected in the group comprising ether like tetrahydrofuran (THF) and diethyl ether, organic acid alkyl ester like ethyl acetate, aromatic hydrocarbon like toluene, and halogenated hydrocarbon like methylene chloride. Preferably the aprotic non-basic solvent is an ether, more preferably THF.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

The organic anhydride of formula (VI) used during the acylation reaction and the ~~hydrogenolyse~~hydrogenolysis-acylation reaction is selected in the group comprising dialkyl anhydride, diaryl anhydride and alkylarylanhydride, and is preferably an acetic anhydride. The preferred organic anhydride is acetic anhydride.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 31 with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, the two step previously described (the acylation reaction of the derivatives of formula (V) and the ~~hydrogenolyse~~hydrogenolysis-acylation reaction of derivatives of formula (IV)) are carried out in one step (also called "one pot" process).

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention has also for object the optically active substituted ~~alpha-indanyl~~  
~~amide~~ alpha-amino indane derivatives of formula (I) :

Please remove the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 11:

~~m is an integer equal to 0, 1, 2 or 3,~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The second step of the process relates to a ~~hydrogenolyschydrogenolysis~~ hydrogenolysis-acylation of the intermediates of formula (IV) in presence of a heterogeneous catalyst based on a metal transition and an organic anhydride of formula (VI) in an appropriate solvent to obtain the derivatives of formula (III).